

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 2

Feb. 2006

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters/Announcements ..2
Home Occupations3
From the President.....3
In the Community4-5
Don & Nancy Dayton6
The Pinyon Jay7
Watershed Partnership.....7

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

County Lends a Hand

SANTA FE COUNTY HAS PLAYED a large role in the lives of Eldorado area residents this past year, and will continue to do so in 2006. Consider the following:

To make the new Ken and Patty Adam Senior Center a reality, the County Commission has allocated an additional \$300,000 above the available legislative appropriation, for a total construction cost of \$1,077,000. Construction will take place this year. The Vista Grande Public Library, a great asset to the community (thanks to its dedicated staff, volunteers and donors), received an additional \$15,000 from my discretionary budget to continue its after-school and summer youth reading programs. Phase III of the library is being planned, as well as a walking path to connect the library and the elementary school.

A stop sign has been installed at Avenida Vista Grande and Monte Alto Road, and driver feedback signs placed at strategic locations. The county has erected a school zone warning signal on Avenida Torreon, funded by the legislature. The county also added \$23,000 to a prior legislative appropriation to construct a gated, signalized railroad crossing on Avandia Eldorado.

Our Public Works Department continues to pave and chip seal about 3 miles of roads in Eldorado each year. In 2005, Questa Road and Monte Alto Road were paved (2.8 miles). This fiscal year, Encantado Loop and Encantado Road will be chip sealed (3.0 miles), and in 2006-07 Herrada Road, Avenida Amistad and Avenida Buena Ventura will be paved (2.6 miles). **Ed Benrock** represents Eldorado on the county's Road Advisory Committee, and can be reached at 466-2088 for issues regarding the maintenance of dedicated county roads.

Construction of a new Eastern Regional Headquarters Hondo Fire Station, located at US 285 and I 25, will be undertaken this year, allowing training of up to four regional crews at a time. A new Lamy fire station will also be constructed with a train station design theme. A new ladder fire truck for the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Station was recently purchased by the County Fire Department.

To help preserve the community character, we have increased enforcement against illegally parked vehicles for sale, and have enforced night sky protection laws. Land use planning has been facilitated through the passage of the US 285 Corridor Plan and ordinance, designed to limit commercial and residential sprawl. I continue to maintain close contact with the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District Board to coordinate county and district water planning efforts.

With the expert assistance of an Eldorado resident, **Dianne Quarles**, we are currently reviewing a draft affordable housing ordinance for the central portion of the county. It will provide 30% affordable housing that could assist a family of four earning up to approximately \$79,000 a year. We want to provide housing opportunities for young families so they can remain in the Santa Fe area and contribute to the vitality of our community.

My goal is to represent and serve all my constituents, and I welcome your feedback and help in achieving that end. As your County Commissioner for five years, I have enjoyed representing you, and encourage you to continue communicating your comments and suggestions. I can be reached at jsullivan@co.santa-fe.nm.us. I also have a hard-working constituent liaison, **Jennifer Jaramillo**, available to assist residents.

She can be reached at 986-6293 or jjaramillo@co.santa-fe.nm.us.

—County Commissioner Jack Sullivan

***ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
Feb. 13, 7 pm***



**County Commissioner
Jack Sullivan**

**Share your
comments
with us!**

*For policy and
deadline, see
below*

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **DEADLINE:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. Please include "Attn: *Vistas*" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of *Vistas*, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Why Eldorado Needs a Dog Park

I WAS SHOCKED AT THE NUMBER of dog bites in the Letters section of the December issue [of *Vistas*] in ELDORADO ISSUES. This is why we need a dog park in Eldorado. Tougher leash laws are not the answer!

I moved here from Santa Fe about 6 months ago and one of the reasons I bought a house here is that it butted the green belt so my dogs could run along the trails. They started chasing rabbits running up on other people's property. I soon realized that people do not like dogs running free.

The Santa Fe dog park is the social event for both people and dogs and is very successful. In most cases, people do not have the time nor the stamina to hike trails like the Eldorado Wilderness all the time nor do they have time to drive into Santa Fe to the dog park.

Aggressive dogs are not allowed in the dog park [in Santa Fe] and if that happens, animal control is

called immediately. People would sit on a bench drinking their coffee on their way to different events for about 20 minutes while their dogs played with each other getting lots of exercise.

If dogs are socialized with other dogs in a fenced dog park, it is a win-win situation for everyone.

—Karen
Edwards



Response

YES, I AGREE, Eldorado is the Subdivision Different. But, no, Mount Taylor is not the second highest peak in New Mexico. According to Herbert Ungnade, author of *Guide to the New Mexico Mountains*, Mount Taylor is 54th highest on the state list.

Mount Taylor is listed at 11,301 feet, making it 17th on the 11,000-12,000 foot list. So, what is so special about Mount Taylor? It is nowhere close to being the second highest in the state. It is not even the second highest within our view from here in Eldorado. But, it is the second highest volcanic peak within our view. This prominent mountain is among the sacred peaks of the Pueblo and Navajo people. This is what makes Mount Taylor so special.

Mount Taylor, named for a military general from Santa Fe, is located in the San Mateo Mountains. Along with the Cebolleta Mountains to the north, this group of peaks makes up a 44 mile long volcanic plateau. Extensive lava flows, cinder cones, and volcanic necks in the area offer numerous opportunities for exploration and recreation on public lands.

—David Rasch

Candidate Petitions

PETITIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE ECIA Board candidates are now ready at the ECIA office. There will be one vacant position, to be filled by a vote of all lot owners in March. To be placed on the ballot, a candidate must file a petition that contains the candidate's name and the signatures of at least 25 lot owners, each of whom must be a Member in Good Standing (with assessments paid up!).

Petitions must be returned to the ECIA office by March 1, along with a resumé and position statement—why you want to serve on the Board. The latter two will be circulated with the ballot to eligible property owners by March 31. These ballots must be mailed back to the office and received by April 27. The winning candidate will be announced at the May 1 Annual Meeting of Members, and will take office at that time.

For any questions, you may contact the ECIA office at 466-4248.

—Dan Drobnis

ECIA Staff Change

January 15, 2006 was Bob Pritchard's last day as general manager of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. He served the community for six years and can be credited for implementing many practices that make our association run smoothly. The Board of Directors is developing a search process to fill the position. More information will follow.

—Jeanne Klein

Home Occupations

ALL ECIA PROPERTIES are designated single family residential and shall not be used for any commercial or business purpose, with the exception of *home occupations*. All *home occupations* must comply with Santa Fe County regulations and have the prior written approval of the ECIA Board of Directors or its designees.

If the *home occupation* has more than one outside employee and customers visit the property, an In-Home Profession application is required and will be reviewed for Board approval based on the following:

- ▼ the *home occupation* activity is incidental and subordinate to residential use,
- ▼ activity is carried on inside of the buildings, and does not involve the exterior storage of materials nor change the exterior appearance of the property,
- ▼ the occupation is served by sufficient parking (one employee and one customer) for normal *home occupation* activities, and
- ▼ the *home occupation* does not require the use of equipment and processes which violate Article II, Section 14 Nuisance -Clause (i.e., activities which may endanger the health or unreasonably disturb other lot owners, or create a nuisance).



SIGNAGE: the ECIA does not allow permanent signs or nameplates which advertise or identify a business or a *home occupation*. Because *home occupations* are allowed, it is reasonable to permit some identification using a name plate that is comparable to a mailbox address or name plate. It should not be a large sign nor should it contain advertising messages.

If the name plate identifies a *home occupation*, it shall not require approval if it meets the following standards:

1. Does not exceed 4 inches in height and 24 inches in length
2. Does not include an advertising message
3. One nameplate is allowed at the entry to the dwelling or large accessory building
4. One nameplate is allowed to be attached to the mail box post, mail box or driveway monument

If you have any questions regarding *home occupations*, please call the ECIA staff.

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR



From the President

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS

RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN at least a half-dozen dog “incidents” reported in Eldorado. There are probably even more that go unreported. Andrea Cohen, an ECIA Board Director was one of the persons threatened by a loose dog. She contacted the County Animal Control Department and the sheriff’s office. Both officers responded and were very helpful to her. As a result of her encounter, she found other associations have similar problems, and although the County Animal Control Department and the sheriff’s office are best equipped to handle these pet-off-the-leash incidents, individual pet owners taking control of their pet situation and being considerate community members can improve the problem ten-fold.

Andrea has put together *The Responsible Dog Owner’s Pledge*, a part of which I am including here. For the entire pledge, please go to the Eldorado website (eldoradocommunity.org) where it is posted.

The Responsible Dog Owner’s Pledge

My dog’s behavior on my property:

1. I will not allow my dog to roam free off of my property.
2. I will not allow my dog to pose a nuisance to my neighbors by barking at any time, but particularly at night when people are trying to sleep.

My dog’s behavior off my property:

1. I will keep my dog on a leash at all times in common or public areas.
2. I will clean up after my dog at all times in common or public places.

It all boils down to dog owners being considerate of fellow community members as well as of the health and safety of their own and other dogs.

The simple solution to most dog problems in our community – any community – is to keep dogs fenced and to walk them on a leash, it’s just that simple. As far as nuisance barking, there are solutions out there for people willing to seek them out.

These simple reminders can keep community members and our pets safe. Thank you Andrea.

—Jeanne Klein

ECIA OFFICE

#1 La Hacienda Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
466-4248, 466-4249
info@eldoradocommunity.org
www.eldoradocommunity.org

General Manager

Bob Pritchard
466-4248
ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jeanne Klein
466-2466

Jpkeducate@aol.com
Treasurer

Dan Drobnis
466-4781
Drobnisd@sdsc.edu

Director

Sandy MacGregor
466-0882

s.macg@earthlink.net

Director

Johnny Martinez
466-0696

Jmartinez54@comcast.net

Director

Andrea Cohen

466-2541

acmb@cybermesa.com

Director

Ed Benrock

466-2088

Francesed@msn.com

Director

Philip Balcombe

466-2982

pgbalcombe@cybermesa.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Finance: Gisela Knight

Architecture: Bill Schwent

Conservation: Steve Wust

Stable: Dina Sassone

466-2516

Election: Vacant

Road: Ed Benrock

Information: Ken McPherson

Neighborhood Watch:

Sandra Vreeland

VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Editor:

Ken McPherson

466-4161

kenzwork@hubwest.com

Designer:

Hope O. Kiah

hope@webdesignbyhope.com

Editorial Assistants:

Lynn McPherson

Debby Padilla

466-4248

Photographer:

whitewolfvision.com

466-2273

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Vista Grande Library

466-READ

Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue

466-1204

Animal Control

986-2430



Above:
Gourd Art by Raoul Berke

Gourd Art Presentation

Raoul Berke, an Eldorado artist, will talk about how he takes ordinary gourds and turns them into works of art. He makes interesting and colorful masks, covered boxes, bowls and other objects. He will discuss his technique and bring samples to show. Raoul was scheduled to talk last January but the meeting was canceled because of a heavy snowstorm. The program will take place at 7 pm, February 23, at the main Fire Station. This will also be the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association's Annual Meeting and election of new officers for 2006-07. For information or to join the association, call 466-3256 or 466-6245.

School News

From February 3-16, students from El Dorado Elementary will be selling World's Finest Chocolate to benefit various school programs that the PTA funds, including the art and cooking with kids programs. Some of the students will be selling the chocolate door to door, so keep your eyes open for your opportunity to support the school and the students.

February 16 is the PTA's Family Fun Night! There will be bingo and a demonstration of Brain Gym—physical movements designed to stimulate and enhance brain functioning.

Public Notice

Effective immediately, the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District will be enforcing its policy regarding non-payment of monthly bills. Bills in arrears for longer than 60 days may be subject to a termination of service. The District Board feels it is necessary as those ratepayers who are responsible and pay their bills are bearing the burden created by those who do not. Special provisions have been made in the case of medical hardships that could be created by a water shut-off. The Board also wanted to be sure that sufficient notice was given. Please refer to our website, eldoradowaterdistrict.com, for the complete policy as adopted.

The District suggests that anyone leaving town for an extended period make arrangements to have their monthly water bill paid while they are gone. If your mail cannot be forwarded or picked up by a friend or neighbor, please call OMI to make arrangements for payment to avoid a cancellation of service.

Support Group for Moms

There are four Santa Fe chapters of the international support group for moms called MOMS Club. The Southeast Chapter of MOMS Club,



made up mostly of women who live in Eldorado, is open to moms with kids of all ages and is a way to connect with and get support from other local mothers. It's a great way to set up play dates, take your kids on outings with the group to places like an alpaca farm, The Children's Museum, and other museums in town. And the first Tuesday of every month, moms and kids meet at the Vista Grande Public Library at 10:30 am to read books or work puzzles, etc. There's also a "Mom's Night Out" once a month. It's a chance to get together (without the kids) for anything from dinner and a movie, to a potluck, or bowling. To get more information or join, call **Marjolijn** at 466-3864.

Dr. Suess and Friends

The Eldorado Children's Theatre will be performing, "Seussical, The Musical" on February 24, at 7 pm, and February 25 and 26 at 2 pm at the James A. Little Theatre on the campus of the School for the Deaf. Conceived of in part by Eric Idle, based on the words of Dr. Seuss and starring Dr. Seuss characters, it's a delightful musical for kids age three to adult. There's lots of singing and dancing in this Broadway show that will be done for the first time in Santa Fe. Aside from the 54 incredible kids in the cast, ranging in age from 7 to 16, several Eldorado residents are contributing their talents to the production, which will include a live professional band/orchestra: **Lisa Lincoln** (director and producer), **Bonney Hughes** (assistant director), **Jennifer Pruett** (costumes), **Brian De Lay** (guitar), **Kerri Lay** (violin), **Tom Brimacombe** (set design), and **Jerry Milstein** (conductor and one of two pianists). **Danny Silver**, the choreographer, works for National Dance Institute and lives in the 285 Corridor. For information or to reserve tickets, call Lisa Lincoln at 466-3302, or you can buy your tickets at Outback Video or at the door. They'll be available two weeks before the show. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. Children's tickets are \$1 off if bought ahead of time at Outback Video.

Say it Here

You may have noticed that this page of Vistas is a venue for clubs and organizations in Eldorado who have something to say. Don't be shy. Send us information about your special meetings,



Astronomy Corner

Ancient and Modern Constellations

Ancient civilizations started the naming of constellations. Ptolemy, the Greco-Egyptian astronomer, cataloged more than 1,000 stars and 48 constellations. By 1754 we already had 36 new figures in the night sky. Before 1930, anyone could name any part of the sky anything and add a new constellation anywhere. Finally, in 1930, astronomers worldwide said, "enough is enough," and decided to specify Latin names and the boundaries of 88 constellations. These are the constellations universally recognized today.

February Sky: Saturn, a jewel after evening twilight in ENE; **Venus**, rises 2-1/2 hours before the sun; **Mars**, high and dimmer in SSE; **Jupiter** rises about midnight in SE; and **Mercury** is setting less than an hour after sunset.

Next: The Plumber and the stars.

—Juan Alvarez
Jalva88610@aol.com

demonstrations, talks, celebrations, etc. We can't always print everything we are sent, or we may have to edit it a bit; however, more often we aren't sent enough news. Often the Community Band is playing somewhere or someone is having a special meeting, but we find out in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. Surely you want attendance at your event. Let us know! P.S. If you send an item to the editor at kenzwork@hub-west.com and you don't get a reply, call him at 466-4161. There have been instances of emails not going through, for which we apologize.

Send any news by the 3rd of the month preceding the month in which the event takes place (i.e., February 3rd for the March issue).

February Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

ERA's T.G.I.F.	Fri., Feb. 17, 5-7 pm	Joe Auburg	466-1484	LR
President's Day	Mon., Feb. 20	ECIA Offices closed		

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285 Coalition	Wed., Feb. 1, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Road Committee	Mon., Feb. 6, 6-7 pm	Ed Benrock	466-2088	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Feb. 6, 7-9 pm	Sandra Vreeland	466-6079	LR
Perform. Arts Assoc.	Tues., Feb. 7, 7 pm	Bruce Blossman		RR
Conservation Committee	Tues., Feb. 7, 7-9 pm	Stephen Wust	466-0436	LR
EAW&SD*	Tues., Feb. 7, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
Finance Committee	Wed., Feb. 8, 9-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Feb. 13, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 14, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Feb. 16, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Feb. 20, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
EAW&SD*	Tues., Feb. 21, 7-9 pm		466-2411	RR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Feb. 28, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Feb. 28, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-2516	LR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club	Sat., Feb. 11, 9-10:30 am	Joan Lamarque	466-6000	
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Library Book Group	3rd Mon., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	VGPL
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 7, 10-11 am	Joe Auburg	466-1484	F, K
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Feb. 9, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Feb. 13, 7-9	lcwireless.org		LR
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	Shannon Ratcliff	986-9050	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Feb. 21, 10-11 am	Joe Auburg	466-1484	F, K
Shakespeare Group	Tues., Feb. 21, 2 pm	Mary Denison	466-6657	CFR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:30-6:50 pm			LR
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			RR
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			CFR
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Senior Exercise	Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am	Lucia Sybert	466-3721	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Tues., 10 am-noon	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	F
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org



Eldorado's Finest...Couple



The Daytons at the top of Mt. Handies in August 2004.

IN AN AGE IN WHICH MORE OF US are occupied globally as concerned consumers of bad news but few of us act locally to sustain and improve our communities, **Don and Nancy Dayton** are valuable exceptions. In their 25 years as residents of Eldorado they have worked tirelessly as volunteers for El Dorado Search and Rescue, the ECIA, our water utility (EAW&SD) and most recently as advocates for the senior citizens of Santa Fe County.

Don and Nancy were born, raised and educated in Ohio, meeting as students at Ohio State University in Columbus where Nancy studied biology and Don took his degree in Wildlife Management (later doing graduate work in zoology).

In what can best be described as a whirlwind of career activity, Don and Nancy got married and left Ohio for Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya after their university time. Don served there as an officer of the U.S. Air Force while Nancy worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Military duties abroad were followed by Don's employment as a research assistant in parasitology for the Department of Agriculture's main agricultural research center in Beltsville, Maryland. His work there lead to other interests including a life-long interest in Natural Resource Management—an area about which he says he will one day write a book.

With Nancy by his side and a growing family (eventually two boys and a girl), Don's next career took him to the National Park Service where he became what many, if not most boys, dream of becoming—a ranger. At Glacier and Sequoia National Parks, Don worked to ensure that programs functioned to support the environment and the crowds of visitors that clogged park roads and trails during the year. Nancy served at Don's side. In those days the wives were expected to volunteer—without pay—to assist their ranger husbands.

A series of higher level assignments and promotions followed the Dayton's after their work at Glacier and Sequoia National Parks—two areas that they speak of with great fondness as some of the most beautiful and inspiring in the United States. After a year attending the Department of Interior Management Training Program in Washington, D.C., Don became the superintendent of White Sands in New Mexico, then of the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. During his final park tour, in charge of the spectacular Carlsbad Caverns National Park, he helped develop the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, just to the south of Carlsbad, in Texas.

The last job Don held before retiring is important to us because it brought him and Nancy to Santa Fe and to Eldorado. As Deputy Director of the Park Service's Southwest Region, he was responsible for 33 national parks in Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.

Today, Don and Nancy may be busier than any time in their very busy careers. After a year of what he said was “not doing much” following retirement in 1990, the Daytons have visited and in many cases hiked up the major mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. Don has served with the ECIA as a volunteer and later as its president. He was instrumental in founding the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District, and was its chairman during some very difficult times. Nancy took a lead role for many years as an Emergency Medical Technician for El Dorado Fire and Rescue, and at present is a superintendent for the Eldorado Voting Precinct where she organizes, trains and recruits election volunteers.

“People like the Daytons,” one of their admirers said, “give us hope for our country and make us proud of our community.” They have been examples for many years of the advice we see given but not enough heeded: “Think globally, act locally.”

—Frank Schober

Pinyon Jay (PJ)

THIS LARGE, ALL BLUE BIRD is hard to miss when it arrives en masse, sometimes in groups of 50 or more. Males and females are similar: darker blue on top, lighter blue below, with a pointy black bill, and 10 inches long with a 19-inch wingspan. They inhabit scrubby piñon-juniper terrain of the Southwest and inland as far north as Oregon. PJs are non-migratory, but move around depending on food supply. Diet consists of pine nuts, fruits, insects, bird eggs and nestlings. I see these birds infrequently now in western Eldorado, since most of the piñon trees have died. Closer to US 285, these birds can be observed in large groups on the wing, making a laughing-like (HAA) sound as they go.

In December and January there often are large groups of Mountain Blue Birds in Eldorado. These fly in a loosely packed flock and stay low, going from tree to tree and make a soft single note call. They are easily distinguished from the PJs.

PJ breeding activity is synched with the production of piñon nuts, allowing them to raise broods very early in the year, or late in the year. They have been found breeding in colonies of 150 individuals. A PJ may spend its entire life in the flock it was born into. Males and females form a long-term pair bond. The male selects a nest site and a cup-like nest is



PHOTO BY ROBERT ROYSE

built in a tree. Three to five eggs hatch in 16 days. Babies leave the nest in 21 days and may stay with their parents for several months.

PJs are grouped with Crows and Jays. PJs do not have feathers covering the nostrils (it's genus name means naked nose) and it does not hop like jays, but walks like crows. Lack of nose feathers allows the PJ to stay clean while probing into pitch-laden cones. PJs also cache large stores of nuts, hopefully allowing some of our piñon trees to regenerate naturally.

P.S. An interesting fact about Juniper Titmice was omitted in the January column. JT have a remarkable way of dealing with cold winter temperatures and limited supply of food and daylight for foraging. They can lower their 107.6 degrees F body temperature to 86 degrees F at night. Energy is conserved and they still have the ability to escape predators by flying feebly.

—Pam Henline

ECIA Signs GWP MOU

AT THE NOVEMBER 2005 MEETING, ECIA's Board of Directors voted unanimously to sign the Galisteo Watershed Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding. ECIA had received an invitation to sign the memorandum last summer, and I was one of several dozen people, including our congressman and county commission chair, present at the charter unveiling. I returned happy to recommend to the Board that we sign the memorandum.

More than a hundred years ago, John Wesley Powell, one of the early explorers sent to explore the West by the U.S., held that watersheds are key to land management in these dry regions. Many conservationists agree. Our watershed is the Galisteo, and it encompasses 730 square miles between Thompson Peak and the Rio Grande. In this view, Galisteo Creek becomes the focus for all elements affecting the health of that environment.

Two years ago, landowners, residents and other stakeholders met for the first time, sponsored by EarthWorks Institute, Santa Fe County's Planning Division and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Most attendees share a vision of ecologically sensitive

development, as well as the conservation of important ecological and cultural areas and a more self-sustaining watershed community. The result was the Galisteo Watershed Partnership, whose goals are continuing open dialogue on the area's future, collection and dissemination of information, and community education about the watershed. The Partnership wanted Eldorado, the largest community in the watershed, to be part of that dialogue.

My first sight of Northern New Mexico, thirty years ago, was of the Galisteo Basin. It did not cross my mind then that I would be living here in one of a cascade of neighborhoods spilling down from the mountains towards the Rio Grande, or that development could so soon encroach upon that fabulous landscape. It is doing so now, at the rate of several hundred buildings a year. Many of us, once we have moved here, probably wish we could be the last ones to do so, but we know that additional development is inevitable. Now we have another way to be part of the process, another forum in which to work to minimize development's negative aspects and preserve the landscape we prize.

—Philip Balcombe



John Wesley Powell, explorer and conservationist



Security
204-2945

corner

kid's

Coincidence?

Suzie got a Jacuzzi...
Nat got a cat...
Sophie won a trophy...
How about that?!

This all happened yesterday.
People say it's chance.
I really don't think so,
On that I'll bet my pants.

The reason that I say this is,
My name is Aloysius,
And on that same rhyming day,
I got superstitious.

—Lynn McPherson